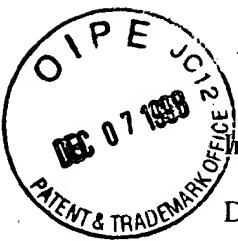


GMA 1724

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re patent application of: ) Before the Examiner  
David J. Robson, et al. ) Ivars C. Cintins  
Serial No. 08/876.322 ) Group Art Unit  
Filed November 23, 1998 ) 1724  
IMPROVEMENTS IN OR )  
RELATING TO ABSORPTION )  
OF HYDROPHOBIC WATER- )  
IMMISCIBLE LIQUIDS )

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LETTER TO THE EXAMINER

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Applicant acknowledges receipt of a final office action in this case mailed November 6, 1998. However, a preliminary amendment was submitted on September 18, 1998, which has not been addressed in the office action. Applicant therefore requests that the preliminary amendment be considered, and that a new non-final office action be issued in this case, with the deadlines set for response in the recent office action being vacated.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to the Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231 on December 4 1998.

Thomas Q. Henry  
Name of Registered Representative

Thomas Q. Henry  
Signature

December 4, 1998  
Date of Signature

Respectfully submitted,

By:

Thomas Q. Henry  
Thomas Q. Henry  
Reg. No. 28,309  
Woodard, Emhardt, Naughton, Moriarty  
& McNett  
Bank One Center Tower  
111 Monument Circle, Suite 3700  
Indianapolis, IN 46204-5137